

COUNTRY DATA: CHAD: Information from the CIA World Factbook

INTRODUCTION

Chad, part of France's African holdings until 1960, endured three decades of civil warfare as well as invasions by Libya before a semblance of peace was finally restored in 1990. The government eventually drafted a democratic constitution and held flawed presidential elections in 1996 and 2001. In 1998, a rebellion broke out in northern Chad, which has sporadically flared up despite several peace agreements between the government and the rebels. In 2005, new rebel groups emerged in western Sudan and made probing attacks into eastern Chad despite signing peace agreements in December 2006 and October 2007. Power remains in the hands of an ethnic minority. In June 2005, President Idriss DEBY held a referendum successfully removing constitutional term limits and won another controversial election in 2006. Sporadic rebel campaigns continued throughout 2006 and 2007. The capital experienced a significant rebel threat in early 2008¹.

GEOGRAPHY

Location	Central Africa, south of Libya
Area	1.284 million sq km
Climate	Tropical in south, desert in north
Natural Resources	Petroleum, uranium, natron, kaolin, fish (Lake Chad), gold, limestone, sand and gravel, salt
Total Renewable Water Resources	43 cu km (1987)
Freshwater Withdrawal	Total: .23 cu km/yr (17%/0%/83%) Per capita: 24 cu m/yr (2000)
Natural Hazards	Hot, dry, dusty harmattan winds in north, periodic droughts, locust plagues.
Environmental Issues	Inadequate supplies of potable water; improper waste disposal in rural areas contributes to soil and water pollution, desertification.

PEOPLE

Population	10,329,208 (July 2010 est)
Ethnic Groups	Sara 27.7%, Arab 12.3%, Mayo-Kebbi 11.5%, other 48.5%
Religions	Muslim 53.1%, Catholic 20.1%, Protestant 14.2%, animist 7.3%, other .5%, atheist 3.1%, unknown 1.7%

Languages	French (official), Arabic (official), Sara (in south), more than 120 different languages and dialects
Literacy Rate	25.7%
Major Infectious Diseases	Degree of risk: very high Food or waterborne diseases: bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever Vectorborne disease: malaria Water contact disease: schistosomiasis Respiratory disease: meningococcal meningitis (2005)
GOVERNMENT	
Type	Republic* *According to the Freedom House, Chad is not an electoral democracy. The country has never experienced a free and fair transfer of power through elections. The president is elected for five-year terms, and in 2005 constitutional amendment abolished term limits. There are 70 political parties.
Independence	11 August 1960 from France
Constitution	Passed by referendum 31 March 1996
Legal System	Based on French civil law system and Chadian customary law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	Cotton, sorghum, millet, peanuts, rice, potatoes, manioc (tapioca), cattle, sheep, goats, camels
Industries	Oil, cotton textiles, meatpacking, brewing, natron (sodium carbonate), soap, cigarettes, construction materials
Import commodities	Machinery and transportation equipment, industrial goods, foodstuffs, textiles
Import Partners	France 17.74%, Cameroon 12.7%, China 11.23%, US 7.59%, Italy 6.54%, Ukraine 5.33%, Netherlands 4.37% (2009)
Export Commodities	Oil, cattle, cotton, gum arabic
Export Partners	US 90.06%, France 4.81%, China 1.6% (2009)
Per Capita GDP	\$19000 (2009 est)
Population below poverty line	80% (2009)
Foreign Aid ⁱⁱ	318.9 million in U.S. dollars per year

Corruption ⁱⁱⁱ	Corruption is rampant within Deby's inner circle. Weaknesses in revenue management and oversight facilitate the diversion of oil revenues from national development projects to private interests as well as growing military expenditures, which amount to at least 12% of the budget. Chad as ranked 173 out of 180 countries surveyed in Transparency International's 2008 Corruption Perceptions Index.
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***CITATIONS:** All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

ⁱ Central Intelligence Agency: The World Factbook. Online. Available at: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bg.html>

ⁱⁱ United Nations Development Program: Human Development Report. Online. Available at: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2009/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Freedom House. Online. Available at: <http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=363&year=2009&country=7563>